



EMERGENCE OF A NEW WOMEN: INDEPENDENT LIVING

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INTRODUCTION

"Ruler in hand, Stool in foot.
Tear the veil from your head women,
Break the chains too.
The veil that 'toma' has done to you,
Fly away and cover it."

Prison written by men because the poet does not want the distinction between men and women it is not his wish to be imprisoned by reminding the coming of socialism, the poet calls upon women to regain their dignity and break through all the shackles of slavery to get out.

Women must be like the mighty Durga, Chamunda. Infinite courage overcomes all fears. If necessary, revenge should be poured out.

So far only amrit in the bowl, today when Necessary,
The hand that holds the amrit to the should be given poison

The history of women's independence or occupation in middle class and so called genteel families is not very old. Financial crisis resulting from world war II and the partition of the country drove girls from middle class families into various financial careers in the mid twentieth century. Since the declaration of the world women's Decade in the mid-seventies new thinking and writing about women's freedom began. A new spirit emerged in the life of Indian women.

1990s, globalization, liberalized economics, and the application of new scientific technologies gave women a variety of livelihood opportunities. Today, girls are earning a living full of part time in water, on land, on mountain tops, in the sky and even beyond the sky in space research organizations. Women are now involved in so many diverse occupations.

Education & literature

In the middle of the 20th century, before and especially after the independence of the country, for a long time the livelihood of a teacher was respectable for women. However, the history of a long time. Pali literature tells us that the Upadhyayas and Acharyas of the Buddhist Bhikkhuni Sangha used to teach the 'Antebasini' and 'Shileshamana' women of the Sangha. In the darkness of the middle ages like a sudden flash of light in the late eighteenth century. Some strange women of Bengal can be seen. Among them Balavidhaba Hoti Vidyalyanka, a noble Brahmin, acquired knowledge in Sanskrit grammar, poetry, Smriti and narayana scriptures and opened a chatuspathi in Kashi.

During the 19th century renaissance movement, mainly women of the Brahmo Society gained education and exposure to the outside world. The women of the neo-reformist Brahmin family were not only educated but also dreamed of independent livelihood. A passed besides, a noble woman of that time, Rokeya Shakhwat Hossain established the Sakhwat Memorial Girls' School in Bhagalpur with only 5 students in 1909. Later she set up a girls School in a rented house in Calcutta and started teaching herself.

Due the partition of the country from the middle of the 20th Century, under the pressure of many conditions, educated women of middle class families have to go out in search of livelihood. Since the job of school teacher was cheap and socially prestigious at that time, most of the women choose this profession. They were not limited to the teaching of school teachers and professorships in science and arts department of colleges. Many women have left their mark of achievement as school headmistress and college principals.

Women's literacy achievement shows the Renaissance of the nineteenth century as a result, some women took up the pen almost as soon as they got the chance to get an education. A new chapter in women's entry into the world of literature began with the examination of women's education in the 19th century renaissance. Small articles, poems, stories etc of women started appearing in various newspapers and magazines of that time. Rokeya Hossain made a clear argument about financial earnings in 1905 in Bharat Mahila Patrika.

Currently rhymes, poems, stories, essays and novels are everywhere needless to say, countless women have taken up the pen. In the stories and poems and novels

of many, the protest against the social position of women is echoed in different ways, in different degrees. Literature is not only a mirror of the present society, surely the guide of the future. There is no denying that the market for modern poetry, stories and novels is not bright as it could have been. In the modern context, neat realistic writing can attract not only the young generation but also the middle – aged people. We have writers to meet that demand. Just for a change of perspective.

Acting, dance & song

Acting, dancing and singing are the oldest of the independent profession in which women are engaged today. The Rigveda the oldest literature in India, contains religious sense. Religious events are the source of drama in the country.

(i) **Acting:** According to some scholars, after Alexander's expedition to India, Greek dramas were performed in the country and theaters were set up in limitation of Greek theatres. However, indigenous theatre was established in the middle age of 19th century with the establishment of a theatre called 'Oriental Theatre'. Girls from poor families and paitapalli were forced to enter the acting world to relieve themselves and their families of poverty. She later trained in dancing, singing and acting to become a professional actress. Educated girls of 'gentlemen' have embraced the world of acting since the time of the Gananayta Sangha in the forties of the last century.

As the days changed the next generation of actresses did not have to fight against the society as much. After the country's independence and partition in the 1950s – 60s, mainly due to poverty, some girls were forced to enter the world of Yatra. Besides stages and journey, women's first appearance in film is due to poverty. Lately many women in the Hindi and other film industry are much more comfortable and bright as heroines than the heroes. As their addiction and profession become one, the characters played are very lively. Some have also taken on the role of producer.

(ii) **Dance:** There can be song and music without dance. Later half of the 19th century, the Baijis used to earn their living by performing dances and songs in front of the thousands of lights of Jalsa houses in the houses of the so called kings, maharajas and zamindars. Women's lives and livelihoods are intertwined with various dance forms scattered all over India.

(iii) **Song:** The earliest literature of the Aryans the Vedas was composed in rhyme. The appeal of Rabindra Sangeet is eternal of late, modern music has naturally become popular among the younger generation. Their CD markets are booming. These songs are also taken by many young women as a means of earning their money. It should be noted that some band's songs have been born in different regions. They are earning a lot of money through these bands.

Law & Medicine

In the 1950s and 1960s, there were only a handful of women lawyers and doctors. But nowadays the member of women lawyers like women doctors is also countless. Women have not only occupied the post of Chief Justice of the Supreme Court. Female doctors now treat in different hospitals, nursing homes, many in their own private chambers. Nowadays women are now given the opportunity to choose nursing as a profession due to the increase in the number of public and private hospitals and nursing homes. Nursing scholarships are almost exclusively for girls.

Police Administration, Foreign Office & Army

Now women have proven themselves as efficient administrators in all public and private sectors from the village level to central level. Women are also in charge of police general department starting from traffic police to officer in charge of police station. Even the inspector general of crime branch is a woman. India's Central Bureau of Intelligence has a large number of women officers.

If we look at the Indian Foreign office, we see that there is a victory for women today. Bijalakshmi Pandit, the first woman ambassador in Independent India, Nirupama Rao held the post of ambassador to China before assuming the post of Foreign Secretary in 2009. Incidentally 5 of the first 25 candidates who passed the 2011 Administrative Service Examination were women.

Women continue to prove their mettle alongside men in the Indian Army as well. Since the early 1990s, women officers in the army have been assigned to law, education, engineering, ordinance, intelligence, signals, air traffic control etc. departments.

Sports

Many young women today have chosen the sports world as their partial or full livelihood. Our girls participated in the commonwealth games, Asian games and Olympics games. Renubala Cami own silver in the 48 kg weightlifting category at the Commonwealth games. But she proved his worth by wining gold by lifting 68 kg in the Asiad. Sania Mirza is called the queen of the Tennis World in India. Sania is India's only Grand Asian Champion. Sports is through play a respectable way of earning a living. Hyderabad girl Sania Newal is the number 2 star of the badminton world and the queen of the Indian sports culture world. Indian cricket team is very popular in our sports world.

Fashion Designing and Interior Decoration

Women have entered several new professions in the last 15- 20 eyars. Among them are clothing designing, beautification and interior decoration. Also lately the young – old – boy is focusing on new clothes. How many variations, colours and styles have come in boys clothes too. Everything from embroidery, Poetry writing in Panjabi to branded shoes is now fashion. In this fashion some women have come down as fashion designers.

Another old profession is back in a new guise – the profession of beautification. Recently women run beauty parlours are scattered in the alleys. They have taken the responsibility of increasing the beauty of the entire body of girls from the toe nails to the tip of the head hair. Also some organizations run by women not only arrange the entire responsibility of the wedding, starting from arranging the wedding ceremony. The profession of interior decoration is exactly like that. They are essentially a type of business. In the era of globalization, women have chosen thousands of such small and large business as a means of livelihood by opening offices and shops.

Sky & Space

The women now extend their hands beyond the water to the sky, even in space. Four to five decades ago some women chose the aviation industry as a livelihood. At the time many women were seen as air hostesses. Now with the proliferation of domestic and international flights, the demand for women in aviation services has increased every were, from ground staff to airhostess, air traffic control and even pilots. The mountains standing proudly in the middle of the sky are now pulling towards the women. Women have already conquered the world's highest mountain, Mount Everest, along with many peakes. Women are also in space. Sunita Williams and Kalpana Chawla's efforts and achievements prove that nothing is insurmountable for any Indian women given the right opportunity and training.

Working woman

So far the women whose livelihood has been discussed are only 25 – 30% of the entire women's society in India. The remaining 70 – 75 percent are poor and the discussion remains narrowly enined without mentoring women engaged in manual labour. Working women have been engaged in various productive sectors since long before independence, strengthening the economic base of the country.

A large proportion of women workers in India are employed in the unorganized sector, mainly in agriculture and agro related manufacturing. Most of the workers engaged in agriculture are not cultivators. Only the cultivator labourer, who in exchange for wages, works related to the production of crops or other people's land.

Women are also employed in large numbers in organized industries. Here also female workers are more deprived than made workers. Women are generally employed in labour – intensive sectors as low / high skilled and semi – skilled workers. In recent times, despite the fact that women have acquired skills through training, industrial establishments do not recognize their skills in many times female workers are paid less than male workers for the same work. Women engaged in construction work in the unorganized sector are perhaps the most exploited and deprived women are generally engaged in wearing industry, garment industry, bead making factories and fish trade etc. It is well known that women in rural areas are largely engaged in small scale cottage industries.

Finally, let's talk about the maids. Full – time maids have to complete all household chores including cooking. Child rearing, family members in exchange for accommodation, food and fixed salary in the house of the boss. It is well known that in a populous and poor country like India, the labour value of maids is naturally low.

Finally in the words of the poet, it can be said –

“The woman was oppressed for so long,
Today the man is oppressed.”

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